

Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 172571

FOL RPT PRETORIA 2999 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN DURBAN
JOHANNESBURG LONDON PARIS USUN GENEVA JUL 7

QUOTE: UNCLAS PRETORIA 2999

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINS

SUBJECT: SOWETO AFTERMATH: LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS CHANGED,
AND BLACK RECTOR APPOINTED FOR UNIVERSITY OF NORTH.

REF: PRETORIA 2950

DEPT. PASS ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

1. MINISTER OF BANTU EDUCATION M.C. BOTHA RELEASED STATEMENT TO
PRESS JULY 6 ANNOUNCING THAT COMPULSORY USE OF AFRIKAANS AS MEDIUM
OF INSTRUCTION IN AFRICAN SCHOOLS FROM STANDARD FIVE UPWARDS
HAS BEEN DROPPED. RULE APPLIES TO AFRICAN SCHOOLS LOCATED IN
"WHITE" AREAS. HOMELAND GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAVE RIGHT TO
CHOOSE LANGUAGE TO BE USED AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

2. SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, ACTING ON ADVICE OF THEIR SCHOOL BOARD
OR COMMITTEE, HAVE THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:

- (A) ENGLISH AS MEDIUM WITH AFRIKAANS AS SUBJECT;
- (B) AFRIKAANS AS MEDIUM WITH ENGLISH AS SUBJECT;
- (C) BOTH ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS TO BE USED AS MEDIUMS.

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DECISIONS OF PRINCIPALS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY

FOR BANTU EDUCATION FOR CONFIRMATION. BOTHA IS QUOTED AS SAYING " ALTHOUGH IDEALLY BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SHOULD BE USED AS MEDIA OF INSTRUCTION, IT IS STILL NECESSARY TO APPROVE DEVIATIONS ON THE GROUNDS OF PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES."

3. PRESS JULY 6 CITED POSTIVE RESPONSES FROM A NUMBER OF BLACK LEADERS, MOST OF WHOM THOUGHT THE DECISION TARDY BUT NEVERTHELESS WELCOME. WINNE MANDELA, HOWEVER, THOUGHT THAT THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WOULD ONLY TRY TO " PLEASE THEIR MASTERS IN PRETORIA" AND NOTED THAT SMALL CONCESSIONS ARE NO REAL SOLUTION.

4. WEEKEND PRESS HAILED THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR W.M . KGWARE, HEAD OF DEPT OF COMPARATIVE EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH, TURFLOOP, AS NEW RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY. TWO-THIRDS OF TEACHING STAFF AT TURFLOOP ARE WHITE, AND KGWARE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT WHITES HAD ASSURED HIM THAT THEY WOULD NOT ONLY STAY ON BUT WOULD "WORK EVEN HARDER TO MAKE MY APPOINTMENT A SUCCESS." KGWARE HOPED THAT DAY WOULD SOON COME WHEN MAJORITY OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL WOULD BE BLACKS, AND WHEN APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS WOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF COUNCIL AND NOT MINISTER OF BANTU EDUCATION. WHILE MOST PAPERS COMMENTED FAVORABLY, PARTICULARLY NOTING THAT THIS IS FIRST KNOWN GOVERNMENT ACTION PLACING BLACK IN SUPERVISORY POSITION OVER WHITES, SUNDAY EXPRESS WONDERED IF MOVE HAD ANY REAL SIGNIFICANCE, SAYING THAT KGWARE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM SO LONG THAT YOUNGER BLACKS THOUGHT HE WOULD MOST LIKELY REMAIN A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF WHATEVER PRETORIA WANTED.
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